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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 12, 16, 17, and 27 as follows:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A process for routing packets through a load balancing array
2 of servers across a network in a computer environment, comprising the steps of:
3 ~~providing a plurality of load balancing servers;~~
4 ~~providing at least one back end Web server;~~
5 ~~wherein one of said load balancing servers is also a scheduler;~~
6 assigning a virtual IP address to a scheduler that is designated as active scheduler for
7 a load balancing array;
8 wherein all request packets from requesting clients destined for the load balancing
9 array are routed through said scheduler via the virtual IP address;
10 wherein said scheduler routes and load balances a request packet from a client to a
11 load balancing server;
12 wherein said load balancing server routes and load balances said request packet to a
13 back end Web server;
14 wherein said back end Web server's response packet to said request packet is sent to
15 said load balancing server; and
16 wherein said load balancing server sends said response packet directly to said client.

- 1 2. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein said scheduler is a load
2 balancing server and routes and load balances client requests to itself.

- 1 3. (Original) The process of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

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2 detecting the failure of said scheduler; and
3 electing one of said load balancing servers as the new scheduler.

1 4. (Original) The process of Claim 1, wherein said scheduler detects the failure of
2 other load balancing servers; and wherein said scheduler stops routing packets to any failed
3 load balancing servers.

1 5. (Original) The process of Claim 1, wherein said load balancing server schedules
2 sessions to back end Web servers based on a cookie or session ID.

1 6. (Original) The process of Claim 1, wherein said load balancing server uses cookie
2 injection to map a client to a specific back end Web server.

1 7. (Original) The process of Claim 1, wherein said load balancing server decrypts said
2 request packet if it is an SSL session before routing and load balancing said request packet
3 to a back end Web server.

1 8. (Original) The process of Claim 7, wherein said load balancing server encrypts said
2 response packet if it is an SSL session before sending said response packet directly to said
3 client.

1 9. (Original) The process of Claim 1, wherein said load balancing server establishes a
2 connection with said client and said client keeps said connection alive with said load
3 balancing server.

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1 10. (Original) The process of Claim 9, wherein said load balancing server performs
2 URL based scheduling of request packets.

1 11. (Original) The process of Claim 9, wherein said load balancing server performs
2 hash scheduling of request packets.

1 12. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein said load balancing server
2 maintains persistent connections in all its paths when required; and wherein said load
3 balancing server uses hash group based persistence to maintain its persistence tables.

1 13. (Original) The process of Claim 1, wherein said load balancing server detects if a
2 back end Web server fails; and wherein said load balancing server stops routing request
3 packets to failed back end Web servers.

1 14. (Original) The process of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:
2 providing a content delivery network; and
3 wherein said load balancing server modifies select URLs in the HTML page in said
4 response packet to serve them from said content delivery network.

1 15. (Original) The process of Claim 14, wherein HTML pages that have modified URLs
2 are cached to improve performance.

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- 1 16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for routing packets through a load balancing
2 array of servers across a network in a computer environment, comprising:
3 ~~a plurality of load balancing servers;~~
4 ~~at least one back end Web server;~~
5 ~~wherein one of said load balancing servers is also a scheduler;~~
6 assigning a virtual IP address to a scheduler that is designated as active scheduler for
7 a load balancing array;
8 wherein all request packets from requesting clients destined for the load balancing
9 array are routed through said scheduler via the virtual IP address;
10 wherein said scheduler routes and load balances a request packet from a client to a
11 load balancing server;
12 wherein said load balancing server routes and load balances said request packet to a
13 back end Web server;
14 wherein said back end Web server's response packet to said request packet is sent to
15 said load balancing server; and
16 wherein said load balancing server sends said response packet directly to said client.

- 1 17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said scheduler is a load
2 balancing server and routes and load balances client requests to itself.

- 1 18. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 16, further comprising:
2 a module for detecting the failure of said scheduler; and
3 a module for electing one of said load balancing servers as the new scheduler.

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1 19. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said scheduler detects the failure of
2 other load balancing servers; and wherein said scheduler stops routing packets to any failed
3 load balancing servers.

1 20. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said load balancing server schedules
2 sessions to back end Web servers based on a cookie or session ID.

1 21. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said load balancing server uses
2 cookie injection to map a client to a specific back end Web server.

1 22. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said load balancing server decrypts
2 said request packet if it is an SSL session before routing and load balancing said request
3 packet to a back end Web server.

1 23. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 22, wherein said load balancing server encrypts
2 said response packet if it is an SSL session before sending said response packet directly to
3 said client.

1 24. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said load balancing server establishes
2 a connection with said client and said client keeps said connection alive with said load
3 balancing server.

1 25. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein said load balancing server performs
2 URL based scheduling of request packets.

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1 26. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein said load balancing server performs
2 hash scheduling of request packets.

1 27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said load balancing
2 server maintains persistent connections in all its paths when required; and wherein said load
3 balancing server uses hash group based persistence to maintain its persistence tables.

1 28. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said load balancing server detects if a
2 back end Web server fails; and wherein said load balancing server stops routing request
3 packets to failed back end Web servers.

1 29. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 16, further comprising:
2 a content delivery network; and
3 wherein said load balancing server modifies select URLs in the HTML page in said
4 response packet to serve them from said content delivery network.

1 30. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 29, wherein HTML pages that have modified
2 URLs are cached to improve performance.